

19 James Beard parties and events in Chicago you can actually get into



Abe Conlon and Adrienne Lo, owners of Fat Rice, arrive on the James Beard Awards red carpet at the Lyric Opera May 7, 2018 in Chicago. Conlon won the James Beard Award for Best Chef: Great Lakes later that night. (Kristen Norman/for the Chicago Tribune)



By **Grace Wong**
Chicago Tribune

APRIL 29, 2019, 1:00 PM

The James Beard Awards Gala is back in Chicago on Monday and you know what that means — restaurant specials, events and parties where you know the food will be stellar and the drinks appropriate for such a celebration. Unfortunately not all of these events are open to the public, but we've found the ones you can get into and mingle with members of the culinary world's elite.

Thursday

UPTOWN — Brass Heart is hosting a 12-course, tasting menu, collaboration dinner with Brian Fisher of Entente. \$185. 6-10 p.m., 4662 N. Broadway, 773-564-9680, brassheartrestaurant.com, bit.ly/2GUU7Rr

Saturday

GOOSE ISLAND — [Boka](#) will host New York City's Gramercy Tavern for a menu takeover. Chefs Mike Anthony (Gramercy Tavern) and Lee Wolen (Boka) and pastry chefs Miro Uskokovic (GT) and Meg Galus (Boka) will create an eight-course menu with dishes from each restaurant. Wolen is up for a James Beard award for Best Chef: Great Lakes, the fourth time he's been nominated, and Galus is up for Outstanding Pastry Chef, her third nomination. Boka owners [Kevin Boehm](#) and Rob Katz of the eponymous restaurant group are up for Outstanding Restaurateur for the fourth year. Gramercy Tavern has received nine James Beard awards including Outstanding Restaurant in 2008, Best Chef: New York City in 2012 and Outstanding Chef in 2015. *\$165. 5-9 p.m., 1729 W. Halsted St., 312-337-6070, [bokachicago.com](#), [bit.ly/2UMoRot](#)*

NEAR NORTH — Indulge in afternoon tea and cake with Pichet Ong from Brothers and Sisters in Washington. Choose between a boozy or classic tea with variety cakes by Ong, followed by a punch cocktail by DJ Dodd of Freehand Chicago's Broken Shaker. *\$35. 2-4 p.m., 19 E. Ohio St., 312-940-3699, [bit.ly/2URPbAC](#)*

RIVER NORTH — Viking, the kitchen appliance company, is hosting the 2019 IDE All-Star Culinary Bash that will celebrate James Beard Foundation-recognized chefs of color with Champagne, cocktails and bites from chefs from around the country. Proceeds go to Spelman College, the historically black college in Atlanta. Participating chefs at the Merchandise Mart event include Mashama Bailey (Savannah, Ga.), Gregory Gourdet (Portland, Ore.), Jerome Grant (Washington, D.C.), Gabriel Hernandez Febo (San Juan, Puerto Rico), Ilma Lopez (Portland, Maine), and Lynn House (Bardstown, Ky.). *\$100, 8-11 p.m., 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, [bit.ly/2ZL2J4m](#)*

NEAR NORTH — Broken Shaker will host Brothers and Sisters for a pop-up with an exclusive menu by Erik Bruner-Yang and Ong, cocktails by Todd Thrasher and music by J.Larroc. *9 p.m.-1 a.m., 19 E. Ohio St., 312-940-3699, [bit.ly/2VU7SVy](#)*

Sunday

WEST LOOP — The Loyalist collaborates with Joe Beef, giving you the opportunity to try dishes from the famed Montreal restaurant and its sister restaurants Mon Lapin and Le Vin Papillon. Don't miss out on the list of French wines to complement the dishes by chef Marc-Olivier "Marco" Frappier. Although reservations are sold out, walk-ins are still available, so get there early. *5 p.m., 177 N. Ada St., 773-913-3774, [smythandtheloyalist.com/joe-beef/](#)*

PALMER SQUARE — Atlanta-based Ticonderoga Club, a finalist for Outstanding Bar Program this year, will take over the bar at Golden Teardrops, serving cocktails, beer, cider and pours from its custom Plantation Rum barrel. *9-11 p.m., 2101 N. California Ave., 773-770-3414, [goldenteardrops.com](#)*

LOGAN SQUARE — Reckless Eagle Izakaya is celebrating its opening with a pop-up at Longman & Eagle. The Japanese pub and rockabilly-inspired restaurant will serve its full menu of grilled chicken liver, duck heart and king crab, as well as nigiri, oyster shooters and wagyu katsu sandwiches on milk bread. Look out for Japanese

whiskeys and beers, highballs, sake bombs and Japanese-inspired cocktails. *8-10 p.m., 2657 N. Kedzie Ave., 773-276-7110, longmanandeagle.com*

NEAR NORTH — Three Dots and a Dash will host a number of acclaimed bartenders from around the world for the annual Tiki Luau & Pig Roast. Enjoy cocktails from Kimball House (Decatur, Ga.), Ticonderoga Club (Atlanta), Dead Rabbit (New York), Baba Au Rum (Athens, Greece), Leyenda (Brooklyn, N.Y.), La Factoria (San Juan, Puerto Rico) and The Atomic Lounge (Birmingham, Ala.). *\$50. 2-5 p.m., 435 N. Clark St., 312-610-4220, threedotschicago.com, bit.ly/2WezswP*

WEST TOWN — The Izakaya at Momotaro will host New York City's Untitled at The Whitney for a celebration of Japanese cuisine. Suzanne Cupps and Gene Kato will have several food stations in the space in addition to passed appetizers and cocktails. *\$75. 6-9 p.m., 820 W. Lake St., 312-733-4818, bokagr.com/izakaya.php, bit.ly/2WezswP*

WEST TOWN — Eden will serve a special brunch titled Beard, Bubbles, Bloodys and Bacon, in celebration of James Beard, for whom the awards are named. *10 a.m.-2 p.m., 1748 W. Lake St., 312-366-2294, edeninchicago.com*

RIVER NORTH — Sunda is celebrating its 10-year anniversary party with a James Beard Brunch Bash. The special menu will celebrate food from the Philippines. *\$65. 1-3 p.m., 110 W. Illinois St., 312-644-0500, sundanewasian.com*

LINCOLN PARK — Boka hosts Shake Shack and Bang Bang Pie & Biscuits for a backyard barbecue. Look out for Shake Shack's Chick'n Parm Sandwich with Bianco DiNapoli tomato sauce, pancetta, Parmesan and basil, and Somerset's fried chicken sandwiches, as well as canapes and sweets by Boka and Bang Bang Pie. *\$50. 2-5 p.m., 1729 N. Halsted St., 312-337-6070, bokachicago.com, bit.ly/2LelRVp*

NEAR NORTH — Puerto Rico's La Factoria will do a menu takeover at Broken Shaker with music by Melting Pot, featuring Dave Mata, Daniel Villarreal-Carrillo and King Tony. *8 p.m.-2 a.m., 19 E. Ohio St., 312-940-3699, bit.ly/2PgzbGU*

WICKER PARK — New Orleans' Cure teams up with The Violet Hour for a night of cocktails. Drinks from Kirk Estopinal, former The Violet Hour staff member and owner of Cure, and The Violet Hour will be available. Look out for bartenders from around the country who will stir up surprise cocktails. *8 p.m., 1520 N. Damen Ave., 773-252-1500, theviolethour.com*

Monday

LOGAN SQUARE — Lost Lake will host a pre-awards brunch with Jessica Koslow of Sqirl (Los Angeles), Jason Hammel of [Lula Cafe](http://LulaCafe.com) (Chicago; Hammel is up for Best Chef: Great Lakes), Brooks Headly of Superiority Burger (New York), Camille Cogswell of Zahev (Philadelphia), Tom Cunanan of Bad Saint (Washington), and Anna and

David Posey of Elske (Chicago, who are also up for Best Chef: Great Lakes). *11 a.m.- 2 p.m., 3154 W. Diversey Ave., 773-293-6048, lostlaketiki.com, bit.ly/2GLXJUt*

NEAR NORTH — Broken Shaker will showcase Christine Wiseman, Courtney Lane and Yoli Baez from Los Angeles, Miami and New York City for a night of cocktails, with food from Jimmy Leblon of Broken Shaker Miami. *8 p.m.-2 a.m., 19 E. Ohio St., 312-940-3699, bit.ly/2WfT2Jh*

WEST TOWN — Bar Fight Club is back. The competitive evening that celebrates the best of the bar industry is organized by Chicago Style, the cocktail conference, and sponsored by Fords Gin and Del Maguey Single Village Mezcal. Competitors include Existing Conditions (New York), Good Measure (Chicago), Johnny's Gold Brick (Houston), Nickel City (Austin, Texas), Pretty Ugly (Toronto) and True Laurel (San Francisco). All proceeds go to Chicago Style's charity partners, including the James Beard Foundation Womens' Leadership Program and Chicago Period Project. *\$20. 10 p.m.-2 a.m., 311 N. Sangamon St., 312-733-6900, drinkchicagostyle.com*

Tuesday

WEST LOOP — Paul Kahan, One Off Hospitality executive chef and partner, hosts Marc Vetri of Vetri Cucina in Philadelphia and Las Vegas to throw a pizza party with pizzas from his book, "Mastering Pizza." Don't miss a night of Aperol spritzes, wine, beer, rock music and pizza. *\$35. 6-11 p.m., 615 W. Randolph St., 312-377-2002, avecrestaurant.com*

gwong@chicagotribune.com

Twitter [@GraceWong630](https://twitter.com/GraceWong630)

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